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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,758	03/09/2004	Sjoerd Johannes van Driesten	AVERP3447USA	4363

7590 01/16/2007
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EXAMINER

TRAN, THAO T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/796,758	Applicant(s) DRIESTEN, SJOERD JOHANNES VAN	
	Examiner Thao T. Tran	Art Unit 1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2006 and 20 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 18-20 and 41-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 18-20, 41-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/25/2006 and 10/20/2006 has been entered.
2. The Amendments filed on 10/20/2006 has been entered.
3. Claims 1-11, 18-20, 41-48 are currently pending in this application. Claims 46-48 have been newly added. No previously presented claims have been amended.

Remarks

4. Applicants are reminded that it is the structural elements, not properties or functions, that impart patentability when an article claim is being considered. To distinguish the presently claimed invention from the prior art, Applicants should include structural elements that give the article its' properties that are being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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6. Claims 1-11, 18-20, and 41-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Driesten et al. (WO 00/46316) cited in the IDS filed on 5/28/2004, or Van Driesten et al. (EP 1026215A1).

Van Driesten (WO '316) discloses an adhesive article, comprising a face construct 11, a release layer 13, a pressure-sensitive adhesive (permanent) layer 14, a polyester layer 15, a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer 12, a non pressure sensitive adhesive layer 2, a release layer 32, a liner layer 37, a pressure sensitive adhesive layer 36, a release layer 33, and a liner layer 31 (see claims 1-23; Fig. 14A).

Layers 11, 31, and 37 are made of paper and plastic film of a polyolefin, such as polyethylene and polypropylene, or a polyester, such as polyethylene terephthalate (see claims 19-21; page 15, 2nd paragraph). The PSA adhesive and non-PSA adhesive can be hotmelt adhesive and rubber-based or acrylic-based (see page 9, ln. 21-33; page 11, ln. 24-37; page 19, ln. 23-36).

Van Driesten further discloses the laminate being laminated on a roll of face material 8 to yield a roll of single or double ply label laminate 10 or 40 (see paragraph bridging pages 16-17).

Although the reference does not specifically teach the substrate to be moisture resistant, the adhesive to be removable and resealable in the presence of moisture from food packaging environments, or its Moist Loop Test result, since the reference teaches the same components in the laminate, the laminate would inherently have all the same properties as presently claimed.

The same arguments are presented with respect to Van Driesten (EP '215).

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7. Claims 1-8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Navarini et al. (US Pat. 6,056,141). This reference is equivalent to EP-0661154A cited in the IDS filed on 5/28/2004.

Navarini discloses a laminate, comprising a top layer 2, a repositionable adhesive 4, an inner layer 3, and a protective layer 5 (see col. 2, ln. 35-51). Adhesive layer 4 is acrylic-based (see col. 4, ln. 17-20). Layer 2 can be a multilayer, comprising an outer support film 2' of paper or PET, OPA, OPP; polyurethane adhesive; a barrier film 2'' of EVOH or PVDC; another polyurethane adhesive; a support film 2''' ; a redepositable adhesive 4 of acrylic base. Layer 3 can also be multilayer, comprising a support film, an PU adhesive, a sealing film of polyolefin. (See Figs. 5B-5C; col. 5, ln. 29-49).

Although the reference does not specifically teach the substrate to be moisture resistant, the adhesive to be removable and resealable in the presence of moisture from food packaging environments, or its Moist Loop Test result, since the reference teaches the same components in the laminate, the laminate would inherently have all the same properties as presently claimed.

8. Claims 1-4, 18, 41-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bane (US Pat. 5,366,087), cited in the IDS filed on 9/29/2005.

Bane discloses a label to reseal a package, comprising a substrate 11 of paper or plastics. On one face of the substrate, there is a thermally sensitive coating 12 having a perforated line bisecting the substrate. And on the other face of the substrate are coatings 14 and 15 of adhesive on opposite sides of the perforated line. Coating 14 is a permanent pressure sensitive and hotmelt adhesive and coating 15 is a repositionable adhesive (removable and resealable) (see Figs. 1-4;

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paragraph bridging col. 2-3; col. 3, ln. 57-68). A release liner 16 covers the coatings 14 and 15, or coating 12 so as to provide a roll of such labels (see col. 3, ln. 8-23).

Although the reference does not specifically teach the substrate to be moisture resistant, the adhesive to be removable and resealable in the presence of moisture from food packaging environments, or its Moist Loop Test result, since the reference teaches the same components in the laminate, the laminate would inherently have all the same properties as presently claimed.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/20/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments that the van Driesten references each teach PSA layers that are permanent, it is noted that the references also teach non-permanent PSA and non PSA layers in addition to the permanent adhesive layer. With regard to the latter two adhesives, the references specify that they can be hotmelt and rubber-based or acrylic-based, which read on the presently claimed invention.

In response to Applicant's argument that the references do not teach the adhesive can be applied on a substrate and subsequently removeable and releasable, it is noted that the laminate of the reference comprises the adhesive layers on a face construct and a liner construct, which would meet the requirement of a substrate. In van Driesten WO '316 for example, the adhesive are dry peel, which would meet the requirement of nonpermanent adhesive. Moreover, it is noted that so long as the reference discloses the same chemical components in the adhesive as

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presently claimed, the reference's adhesive would inherently be removable and resealable. Thus, the reference would anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Again, Applicants are reminded that to distinguish the presently claimed invention from the prior art, Applicants should include structural or chemical elements that give the article its' properties that are being claimed, and not properties or functions.

The same arguments are presented with respect to Applicant's arguments on EP '215, Navarini '141, and Bane '087.

10. In summary, Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. Furthermore, Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.


Contact Information

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thao T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-1080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Thao T. Tran
Primary Examiner
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